

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete the List of Reference Characters on page 12.

Please amend the Abstract on Page 16 as follows:

In order to provide a handheld work machine that does not require expensive start circuitry for the critical start-up phase of the combustion engine, and in which nevertheless the required constant supply voltage for the engine is present in order to achieve optimum starting behaviour, a handheld work machine ~~(100)~~ is ~~proposed~~provided with at least one combustion engine ~~(12)~~ which in operation requires a supply voltage, and with a voltage generator that supplies a generator voltage that depends on the rotary speed of the combustion engine ~~(12)~~, which generator voltage is used to generate the supply voltage, wherein the handheld work machine ~~(100)~~ is electrically connected to an additional voltage source ~~(14)~~ that prior to starting the combustion engine ~~(12)~~ provides the required supply voltage that at this point in time is not yet present.

~~(Fig. 1)~~